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Twenty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 1880 (2009), by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French Licorne force until 31 January 2010, and requested me to report, by the end of September 2009, on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and on progress towards achieving the key benchmarks proposed in my report of 8 January 2009 (S/2009/21). The present report covers major developments since my report of 7 July 2009 (S/2009/344). The benchmarks and indicators of progress are set out in annex I to the present report.

II. Security situation

2. The security atmosphere in Côte d'Ivoire continued to show sustained improvement, with increased free movement of people and the resumption of commercial activities throughout the country. However, the crime rate has remained high in most parts of the country, in particular in the west. During the period under review, unidentified individuals armed with Kalashnikovs and machetes attacked private homes and public transport vehicles, creating a general sense of insecurity in the area. At least 48 such attacks were reported in both urban and rural areas of Duekoué, Guiglo, Man, Bouaké, Bondouko, Moussadougou, Binao, Mankono, Kani, Daloa and other areas of the Sassandra, Cavally and Montagnes regions in particular. Those attacks, which resulted in the deaths of seven persons and in serious injuries to several others, were in many instances accompanied by grave human rights abuses, including sexual violence. Very few arrests were made by the police.

3. Acts of violence by youth groups were reported in several Government-controlled areas. In Kokomia, a youth group was at the heart of inter-community clashes during which homes and property were destroyed. In the Port Bouët neighbourhood of Abidjan, 200 members of the student union, the Fédération estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire, violently attacked the mayor's office and threatened the mayor, who is a member of the opposition Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire

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4. Overall, the security situation remains fragile and susceptible to deteriorate given the many unresolved aspects of the peace process, including the incomplete disarmament of Forces nouvelles elements and dismantling of pro-Government militias, the inability of the Integrated Command Centre to fully deploy the mixed brigades, the unresolved issues related to the reunification of the security forces and the slow pace of progress in the re-establishment of rule-of-law institutions in the western and northern parts of the country.

III. Status of implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement

5. Significant progress was made in the implementation of key aspects of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, including the completion of the identification and voter registration operations on 30 June 2009, and the beginning of the compilation of the provisional electoral list. The deadlines for completing the latter were, however, missed. Progress in other important areas has remained slow, in particular the implementation of the fourth supplementary agreement, which addresses issues related to security and the reunification of the country.

A. Reunification

6. The fourth supplementary agreement provides for the following: (a) the disarmament of the former combatants of the Forces nouvelles and the dismantling of the militias, two months before the elections; (b) the reunification of Ivorian defence and security forces; (c) the effective redeployment of State administration throughout the country, including the *corps préfectoral* (local authorities), the judiciary and the fiscal and customs administration; and (d) the centralization of the treasury.

7. On 9 August, the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, convened the seventh meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee to review progress in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreements. Prime Minister Guillaume Soro, representatives of the presidential camp, representatives of the Forces nouvelles and all members of the International Consultative Organ attended the meeting. The participants emphasized the need to provide effective security at all stages of the electoral process. They also agreed that the remaining security-related issues should be resolved in a timely manner, in particular the harmonization of the ranks of the 5,000 personnel from Forces nouvelles who should join the national army, the cantonment of those elements, the deployment by the Integrated Command Centre of 8,000 personnel (4,000 from the Forces nouvelles and 4,000 from the Ivorian police and gendarmerie) in mixed brigades, and the effective centralization of the treasury. They also stressed that adequate additional financial and logistical resources should be secured to allow for the achievement of those tasks, which are critical to the completion of the process of the reunification of the country.

8. On 19 August, Mr. Amani N'Guessan, the Minister of Defence of Côte d'Ivoire, announced that a committee had been established to resolve the impasse on the issue of rank harmonization and allow for the adoption of a presidential decree on the matter. However, discussions on this issue are still

ongoing among the parties. On 25 August, during a ceremony in Bouaké, the Defence Minister relaunched the process of deploying mixed brigades; the planned deployment of the mixed brigades in Daloa and Korhogo has yet to materialize. As at 14 September, of the expected 8,000 elements, only 601, drawn from both the Forces nouvelles and the Ivorian national police and gendarmerie services, had been deployed in Abidjan and Bouaké. In addition, the deployed brigades, whose main task is to provide security for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, in particular the electoral process, still lack the capacities and resources required to effectively carry out that responsibility. Meanwhile, the cantonment of the 5,000 Forces nouvelles elements that should be integrated into the national army remains at a standstill, owing, among other things, to the lack of a legal framework governing the integration process and to the absence of adequate facilities for cantonment.

9. Following a request from the Minister of Defence, UNOCI provided support to the Integrated Command Centre in the form of bedding and accommodation equipment to facilitate the cantonment operations and the deployment of the mixed brigades. UNOCI continues to work with national authorities to identify and address the obstacles to the cantonment of the Forces nouvelles personnel and the deployment of mixed brigades. Despite the technical and logistical support provided by UNOCI, the lack of adequate financial resources for the integrated command centre and the mixed brigades continued to impede the work of those important security institutions. Those Forces nouvelles personnel who are already serving in the mixed brigades have yet to be paid, while their counterparts from the Ivorian police and gendarmerie received regular salaries.

10. Following the ceremony to transfer authority from the Forces nouvelles zone commanders to the *corps préfectoral* in May 2009, the prefects have started taking administrative decisions in the northern areas controlled by the Forces nouvelles. However, the authority of the prefects to enforce administrative decisions and maintain public order is still hampered by the absence of operational units from the Integrated Command Centre.

11. With regard to customs and tax offices, although some personnel have been deployed and office rehabilitation works have started, most facilities remain largely unsuitable for use and lack the required equipment. In the meantime, the Forces nouvelles continued to collect taxes in the north and have requested the inclusion of Forces nouvelles-affiliated personnel in all fiscal and financial services, including customs, treasury and tax offices. To that end, a list of 100 individuals is currently being considered by the Ministry of Finance.

12. During the reporting period, uneven progress was made in the redeployment of the judiciary to the north. Despite the nomination of two additional chief judges in Bouaké and Korhogo, difficulties persisted at the Korhogo court, which lacked the number of magistrates required to reach the mandatory quorum for handling its regular caseload, including decisions on challenges and appeals related to the electoral list.

13. The date for reopening all prisons in the Forces nouvelles-controlled areas remains undetermined, as it is contingent upon the redeployment of the judicial police. An order was signed by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights for the redeployment of prison directors to 11 prisons in the north, but it has yet to be implemented. In the meantime, UNOCI trained 102 newly recruited prison officers in law enforcement and crowd control during the reporting period.

B. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and dismantling of militias

14. The national programme for reinsertion and community rehabilitation, in collaboration with the Integrated Command Centre, continued to review the preliminary list of 37,451 profiled pro-Government militias. It is expected that 25,000 people will be on the final list of militia personnel eligible for reintegration support. However, less than two months before the election date of 29 November, the disarmament process remains to be fully completed. The main challenge is the unavailability of the $1,000 demobilization allowance for each ex-combatant and militia member.

15. The national institutions responsible for implementing the reintegration programme continue to lack the resources required to undertake this important task. Consequently, only a portion of the already demobilized ex-combatants have been provided with reintegration opportunities through official Government channels. To address that gap and also contribute to the creation of enabling conditions for the elections, UNOCI, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with resources from the Peacebuilding Fund, continued to provide short-term reinsertion assistance through 525 micro-projects in 23 locations, benefiting a total of 3,407 ex-combatants, militias, young people at risk and women affected by the conflict. An evaluation of the micro-projects, carried out by my Special Representative, Choi Young-Jin, from 18 to 21 August in Bouaké, Séguéla, Daloa, Issia and San-Pédro, revealed that some 80 per cent of the micro-projects have been successfully implemented and continue to provide income beyond their project life to beneficiaries. A joint review mission by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNDP and the Peacebuilding Support Office also travelled to Côte d'Ivoire from 30 August to 5 September to assess the impact of the micro-projects as a part of a review of the Peacebuilding Fund-supported priority plan. The review concluded that the micro-projects had played a critical role in helping to reduce tensions among ex-combatants and contributed to creating a secure environment in many areas in the country. The continuation of those projects is therefore crucial as a stopgap measure pending the full implementation of the Government's reintegration programmes. However, available funding is insufficient to cover the full caseload of ex-combatants and militias, and it will be imperative that other partners provide financial support to this process.

C. Elections

16. All Ivorian leaders are strongly committed to creating the necessary conditions for the conduct of the presidential elections, which are scheduled for 29 November. In his address on the eve of the Côte d'Ivoire independence celebrations on 7 August, President Laurent Gbagbo reaffirmed that there would be no more political obstacles to holding the presidential election as scheduled. Meanwhile, opposition party leaders, while pursuing their pre-campaigning activities in various parts of the country, including in areas commonly known as the strongholds of the ruling party, also reiterated that commitment.

17. My Special Representative continued to explain his certification mandate to the Ivorian stakeholders and the public. In July, he met with the then-President of the Constitutional Council, Mr. Yanon Yapo Germain, to discuss the modalities

concerning the certification. The Constitutional Council is responsible for validating the list of candidates for the presidential and legislative elections, arbitrating electoral disputes during the preparatory stages and polling, and announcing the final results of the elections. On 8 August, President Gbagbo signed a decree appointing Mr. Paul Yao N'Dré as the new President of the Constitutional Council. Leaders of the opposition political parties criticized the appointment, saying they had not been consulted.

18. Following the completion of the identification and voter registration operations on 30 June, the Independent Electoral Commission released the official results of those operations during the meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee held on 9 August. A total of 6,552,694 people had registered, including 38,496 Ivorians who registered in operations conducted in 23 foreign countries.

19. On 23 July, the Independent Electoral Commission published a timeline for the remaining key stages of the electoral process as follows: (a) the publication of the provisional electoral list on 29 August; (b) the publication of the final electoral list following the conclusion of the appeals process between 15 and 21 October; (c) the production of identification and voter cards by 20 October; (d) the distribution of identification and voter cards by 26 November; and (e) the electoral campaign period, from 13 to 27 November.

20. The operations to process identification and voter registration data and produce the provisional electoral list were launched on 21 July. As reported in my letter to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/446) dated 4 September, the parties missed the deadline to publish the provisional list on 29 August. The office of the Prime Minister subsequently announced that the provisional electoral list would be published on 15 September. However, that deadline was also missed, owing mainly to technical challenges and strike actions by unpaid workers.

21. On 25 August, President Gbagbo signed legal texts aimed mainly at compressing the timelines of the electoral process and aligning the legal framework with anticipated delays, in order to meet the 29 November election date. These included decree 2009/270, which regularized the duration of the concluded voter registration operations, carried out between 15 September 2008 and 30 June 2009, by amending an earlier decree that had set 30 October 2008 as the deadline for completing the voter registration process; ordinance 2009/268, which compressed the time for displaying the provisional electoral list from three months to 30 days prior to the elections; and ordinance 2009/269, which compressed the time for completing the distribution of voter cards from two weeks to eight days prior to the elections.

22. In announcing that the new 15 September deadline for the publication of the provisional electoral list had not been met, the Independent Electoral Commission disclosed, on the same day, that 95 per cent of the identification and voter registration data had been processed and that efforts were under way by the Office of the Prime Minister and the technical operators to complete the data processing, indicating that the delay in publishing the provisional electoral list would be limited. One processing centre, in Duekoué, in the western part of the country, had yet to start processing data as at 15 September.

23. Meanwhile, the Integrated Command Centre, while reviewing arrangements to secure the electoral process, including the security of the coordination centres,

reported numerous logistical and financial challenges that continued to impede its ability to fully deliver on that responsibility. As at 20 August, the centre was providing security at 35 of the 70 coordination centres.

24. UNOCI continued to provide assistance to the electoral process, including procurement of electoral materials, with support from UNDP, and in preparations to help transport those materials, including the sensitive provisional electoral list and voter cards, to 70 departments countrywide. UNOCI also continued to provide technical assistance on the development of manuals and guidance for the handling of disputes related to the electoral list. Furthermore, UNDP financed a seminar, held in Yamoussoukro on 27 and 28 August, to strengthen the capacity of 135 magistrates and court clerks.

25. As indicated in my previous report (S/2009/344), UNOCI continued preparations for coordinating and facilitating international election observation activities. The Carter Centre already has an established observation presence in the country, while Japan has announced that it will soon deploy an election observation mission. In addition, evaluation missions are expected from the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to determine the scale and deployment dates of their observer missions.

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

A. Military component

26. As at 22 September 2009, the military strength of UNOCI stood at 7,218 personnel, including 6,932 troops, 192 military observers and 94 staff officers, against an authorized ceiling of 7,450. There are 94 women in the force. An Egyptian engineer company is expected to complete its deployment in October, following the withdrawal of a French engineer company in April.

27. The UNOCI force, which has been reconfigured pursuant to Security Council resolution 1865 (2009), conducted exercises to test the readiness of its rapid-response capability. The current force configuration, with a battalion-sized force reserve, two company-sized sector reserves and increased mobility, including through airlift capacities, enhances the flexibility of the force and allows for rapid response to potential threats, including in support of the Integrated Command Centre. As requested by the Security Council in its resolution 1880 (2009), the UNOCI military concept of operations and rules of engagement were updated to align them with the new posture of the force.

28. Within the framework of inter-mission cooperation, UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) are finalizing plans for the temporary redeployment of one infantry company and two utility helicopters from UNMIL to Côte d'Ivoire, in order to support UNOCI during the upcoming elections. I intend, once the agreement of the concerned troop-contributing countries has been secured and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has been informed, to request the authorization of the Security Council for this temporary redeployment, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1609 (2005).

29. Following Licorne's force reduction, its strength stands at 900 personnel, deployed primarily in the Abidjan area. The Security Council, in its resolution 1880 (2009), extended the authorization it provided to the French Licorne forces to support UNOCI, within the limits of their deployment and capabilities, until 31 January 2010.

B. Police component

30. As at 22 September, UNOCI police strength stood at 1,180, including 432 police officers and 748 officers in six formed police units, with 21 and 2 women, officers respectively. During the reporting period, the UNOCI police component continued to provide advice and training to the national police and gendarmerie in the Government-controlled areas, as well as support to the Integrated Command Centre in planning the deployment of the 8,000 elements who should secure the electoral process. Support, advice and mentoring were also provided to the 600 security auxiliaries trained by UNOCI in 2006 and deployed in the northern part of the country and in the former zone of confidence.

31. The mission continued to assist in the restructuring of the national gendarmerie and police and to provide support for capacity-building projects in the areas of general police training, forensics, conduct and ethics and crowd control. The six formed police units continued to protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment. They also carried out regular joint patrols with other United Nations components and national counterparts to maintain a safe and secure environment within their areas of responsibility.

V. Humanitarian situation

32. During the period under review, humanitarian activities remained focused on the strategic priorities developed for 2009 by the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Coordination Committee in Côte d'Ivoire: the reinsertion and protection of internally displaced persons, largely in the western part of the country, and malnutrition in the north of the country.

33. UNOCI, United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners reinforced their collaboration with local authorities in monitoring and supporting the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons. By 31 July, 80,036 such persons had voluntarily returned to their areas of origin in the west, according to humanitarian actors. The remaining caseload of approximately 40,000 internally displaced persons continued to live with host families, particularly in the departments of Bloléquin and Guiglo. Land disputes continued to affect prospects for a sustainable socio-economic reintegration of returning populations. Those developments constitute a serious threat to inter-community cohesion, despite the efforts made by local authorities, in collaboration with humanitarian partners, to reach common, agreed solutions with youth groups and community leaders.

34. The results of a survey on food security conducted in 9 regions throughout the country in July by the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the National Statistics Institute, should be released in September 2009. This is the first in-depth survey conducted since 2006.

VI. Human rights

35. Despite generally stable security conditions in the country, the human rights situation remained precarious during the reporting period. In part, this was related to inter-community tensions over access to land, in particular in the western part of the country, or to violations committed by violent youth groups, referred to in paragraph 3 above.

36. In the northern part of the country, respect for human rights remained generally poor, despite the partial redeployment of the justice administration. Forces nouvelles elements committed serious human rights violations, including killings, acts of torture and ill-treatment, racketeering, and arbitrary arrests and detentions, including detention for civil debt.

37. Women and girls' rights deteriorated countrywide with the persistence of sexual and gender-based violence. UNOCI registered a total of 53 instances of rape involving victims as young as 7 year of age, as well as pregnant and disabled women. UNOCI human rights officers documented eight cases of forced marriage. They referred victims of sexual violence to specialized centres for medical and psychological assistance, systematically prompted families to file complaints with the police and closely followed cases with law-enforcement officials to ensure that protective measures were effectively taken.

38. During the reporting period, UNOCI conducted awareness-raising activities on human rights, targeting 16,090 people, to strengthen national capacities and address existing gaps. Beneficiaries were trained and sensitized on key human rights issues such as women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence, child rights, human rights and elections, as well as the use of firearms and excessive force. UNOCI also continued to work closely with national counterparts towards the implementation of the national action plan for human rights education, which is aimed at incorporating compulsory human rights education into primary and secondary school curricula in Côte d'Ivoire.

VII. Gender

39. UNOCI trained newly deployed military, police and civilian staff on gender aspects in peacekeeping. UNOCI assisted various local organizations in building their capacities to enhance women's participation in the peace process, national reconstruction and elections at all levels of decision-making. Following the celebration of the first anniversary of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), the efforts of UNOCI to combat sexual violence and, specifically, female genital mutilation translated into the establishment of a dedicated advocacy group comprising local women leaders.

VIII. Child protection

40. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), UNOCI continued to monitor and report violations committed against children. Sexual violence against children persisted across the country, particularly in the northern and western areas. Incidents involving the killing or maiming of children as a result of ritual practices

were reported. In addition, 15 cases of child trafficking involving Burkinabé children aged 8 to 16 were reported in Soubré. Three of the victims were reunited with their families, while the other 12 escaped from the Soubré social centre, where they had been sheltered by the German Technical Cooperation Agency and local authorities.

41. In order to enhance child-protection arrangements, UNOCI, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations strengthened monitoring mechanisms. UNOCI also maintained regular consultations with national institutions to improve the legal framework protecting children's rights in Côte d'Ivoire. In that context, UNOCI, together with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and international non-governmental organizations, supported the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Welfare in organizing awareness-raising campaigns on violations against children, including training on sexual violence for social workers as well as community and religious leaders.

IX. HIV/AIDS

42. With a view to mainstreaming HIV/AIDS aspects into the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, UNOCI pursued its sensitization project for ex-combatants, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, UNDP, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Integrated Command Centre. In addition, UNOCI, the Ministry for the Fight against AIDS and local non-governmental organizations trained 90 peer educators and sensitized 590 prison inmates and 23 correctional officers on aspects of HIV/AIDS. As part of its usual internal outreach, UNOCI sensitized 573 military, police and civilian staff on issues related to HIV/AIDS, while voluntary individual counselling and testing services were offered to 136 personnel.

X. Economic recovery and financial support to the peace process

43. Côte d'Ivoire reached the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) decision point in March 2009. The debt-sustainability analysis completed at that time shows that the country is in debt distress. Côte d'Ivoire had already received about 55 per cent of its estimated HIPC debt relief by March 2009, but it obtained significant further relief from the Paris Club in May — the immediate cancellation of $845 million in official bilateral debt and an agreement to reduce bilateral debt service by 92 per cent during the International Monetary Fund-supported programme period. Negotiations are ongoing with the London Club of commercial creditors. In addition, approximately $2 billion in debt relief is expected to be delivered through the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative by the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) once the HIPC completion point had been reached. A joint World Bank/IMF review mission was present in Côte d'Ivoire in early September 2009 in order to ensure follow-up at the level of execution by the Ivorian authorities of their national budget. Preliminary findings suggest that budget execution is on track. The World Bank and IMF could approve, in November 2009, additional budget support amounting to $50 million.

44. Efforts by the United Nations and the international community to mobilize funds to support the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement continued. The two basket funds established and administered by UNDP to support the electoral process and the national "Programme de sortie de crise" continued to receive external funding. To date, of the $48 million earmarked for the basket fund for the elections, $11 million has been disbursed. Meanwhile, the $22 million raised for the basket fund in support of the Government's "Programme de sortie de crise" were disbursed in support of various initiatives envisaged in the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, including the redeployment of State administration, the return of internally displaced persons and reinsertion programmes for former combatants.

45. Pursuant to paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 1865 (2009), support for the facilitation of the inter-Ivorian direct dialogue and the Special Representative of the Facilitator continued. During the period under review, the project, executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services, received contributions from the Peacebuilding Fund, the World Bank and the European Union, through ECOWAS, in addition to earlier contributions from France and Norway.

XI. Media monitoring and public information

46. During the period under review, UNOCI continued its consultations with key institutions in charge of monitoring the Ivorian media, including the Ministry of Communication, the National Council for Audiovisual Communication and the National Press Council, in particular with regard to the modalities of media coverage during the electoral period and the role of the media during the electoral disputes period. At the same time, UNOCI, through its radio station in particular, continued to sensitize the population with regard to the peace process. UNOCI also conducted a variety of outreach activities to help reinforce social cohesion at the community level, so as to contribute to a peaceful environment.

XII. Personnel conduct and discipline

47. UNOCI continued to work towards full compliance with my zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. In that regard, a number of military contingents were visited by the mission's Conduct and Discipline Team, which reiterated the importance of the policy and assessed the implementation of preventative measures, including in situations where the staff of local non-governmental organizations and the local population live and work in the vicinity of military camps. UNOCI also continued to cooperate with the Office of Internal Oversight Services on investigations into allegations of misconduct by UNOCI personnel.

XIII. Safety and security of personnel

48. No major incidents involving United Nations civilian personnel or premises were reported during the period under review. However, all security measures applicable to United Nations staff continued to be strictly enforced, in view of the prevalent security risks. In addition, the high incidence of traffic accidents,

including ones that involved United Nations vehicles, and the resulting serious injuries remained of concern and prompted the implementation of a driver-safety awareness campaign.

XIV. Observations

49. I welcome the completion of the identification and voter registration operation, which resulted in the registration of more than 6.5 million Ivorians. That is a significant achievement and a major step towards securing lasting peace, considering that the identification of the population was one of the issues at the core of the crisis that had divided the country.

50. The main challenge now is for the concerned national institutions to complete the electoral process in earnest and organize open, free, fair and transparent elections. This requires the preparation of the final electoral list through a transparent and credible process. The publication of the provisional electoral list, as well as the process of resolving any disputes emanating from that list, will be a critical test of the success of the identification and voter registration process. I urge all Ivorians to address any challenges to the provisional list through the established legal channels and to maintain the prevailing climate of calm and stability. My Special Representative, following consultations with all parties, had already publicly endorsed the credibility and transparency of the operations conducted to identify and register the voters. In keeping with his certification mandate, he will similarly certify the stages up to the completion of the preparation of the final voters list.

51. The decrees and ordnances passed on 25 August by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to minimize electoral delays by compressing the remaining key stages show a commendable determination on the part of the Ivorian authorities to conduct the elections as scheduled, on 29 November. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the process of compressing the timeline is conducted in a manner that does not undermine the overall electoral process. In this regard, I call on the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to provide the necessary resources to enable the relevant national institutions to complete the remaining tasks in a timely and transparent manner.

52. While Côte d'Ivoire has completed most of its long journey to the elections, the remaining distance is fraught with major challenges. Many of the uncompleted tasks, for example, the disarmament and dismantling of the militias and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Forces nouvelles elements, could create serious risks for the elections if they are not carefully managed, and, beyond the elections, adversely affect the prevailing stability. I therefore urge the Ivorian parties to sustain the spirit of dialogue and compromise in managing those issues.

53. The positive and calm political and security climate in which the pre-electoral campaigning activities have been conducted is very encouraging and bodes well for the elections. I urge all Ivorians to preserve this atmosphere of calm as they complete the remaining delicate tasks, including the finalization of the electoral list. It is also important for the Ivorian parties to commit to continuing to work together after the elections in order to complete the reunification-related tasks set out in the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Agreement and rebuild their country. As with elections, the international community, including UNOCI, stands

ready to provide a supporting role to the Ivorian parties and institutions in their efforts to advance the reunification agenda before and after the elections.

54. As other examples around the world have shown, if not managed properly and transparently, the electoral process — which is intended to consolidate peace and democracy — could become a source of instability. In addition to taking measures to mitigate the security-related challenges referred to above in the period leading to the elections, it will also be important to carefully manage the sensitive period immediately following the elections. In this regard, I would like to encourage the Ivorian leaders to maintain a commitment to the spirit of mutual accommodation, reconciliation and inclusiveness in the post-electoral period.

55. UNOCI will continue to assist the Ivorian authorities in maintaining a secure environment for the completion of the peace process, in particular during the sensitive electoral process. UNOCI will also continue to monitor and investigate human rights violations, with a particular focus on helping combat violence against women and children, as well as any incident that has an impact on the electoral process. I call on the Ivorian parties to develop and implement the necessary confidence-building measures to prevent human rights violations, including those related to possible electoral violence.

56. Successful elections will pave the way for the drawdown and withdrawal of UNOCI from Côte d'Ivoire. As noted in my previous report, while UNOCI and the United Nations country team continue to develop the transition plans, consultations will be required with the newly elected Government regarding the nature of any future engagement of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire after the elections.

57. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to my Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire and to all UNOCI military, police and civilian personnel for their continued commitment to supporting the peace process. I am also grateful to the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, President Compaoré of Burkina Faso, for his tireless facilitation efforts. Finally, I thank all troop- and police-contributing countries, ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, humanitarian organizations and multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as international and local non-governmental organizations, for their important contributions to the return of peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

Annex I

Benchmarks and indicators of progress in key areas of the Ouagadougou Agreement and its supplementary agreements

Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants/dismantling of the militias	• Profiling and cantonment of 5,000 Forces nouvelles elements at four sites in the north	29 September	• Partially in progress
	• Deployment of 8,000 mixed brigade police and gendarmerie elements under supervision of the Integrated Command Centre		• Partially under way, but at slow pace
	• Storage of weapons by the Integrated Command Centre under the supervision of the impartial forces		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Profiling and dismantling of militia groups		• Partially completed
	• Payment of $1,000 demobilization package to former combatants and militias		• Under negotiation
	• Reinsertion of demobilized combatants and militias		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
Elections	• Identification and voter registration	30 June	• Completed
	• Reconstitution of lost or destroyed civil registers	21 May	• Completed
	• Provision of security during the electoral process by the Integrated Command Centre, with the support of UNOCI		• In progress, with delays
	• Data processing and establishment of the provisional voter list	August and September	• In progress, with delays

Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
	• Submission of candidacies	26 August-16 October	• In progress
	• Settlement of disputes pertaining to voters' registration	September	
	• Publication of the final voter list and elaboration of the new electoral map	September and October	
	• Production and distribution of national identity and voter cards	October and November	
	• Preparation of the 11,000 voting sites, including transportation of the sensitive and non-sensitive electoral cargo to the sites	November	
	• Electoral campaign	November	
	• Polling and announcement of election results	29 November and early December	
Complete restoration of State authority	• Effective and complete redeployment of the *corps préfectoral*		• Partially in progress
	• Transfer of authority from zone commanders to the *corps préfectoral*		• Partially in progress
	• Centralization of the treasury in the north		• Partially in progress
	• Deployment of mixed police and gendarmerie units in the north		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Deployment of magistrates and court clerks supported by the judicial police, expected to play a role in adjudicating electoral disputes and civil law matters		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation

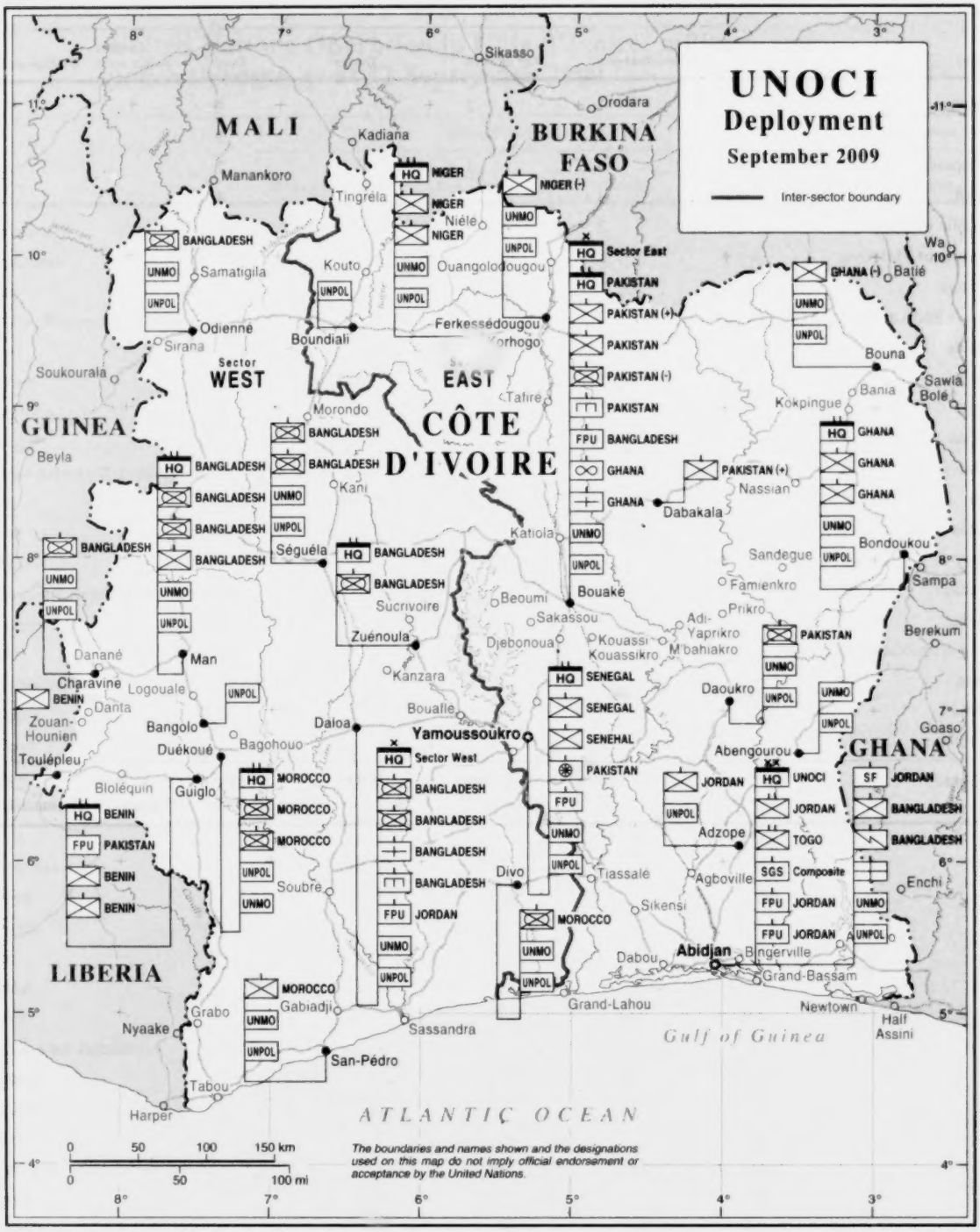
Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
	• Deployment of correction officers and prison directors		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Deployment of other civil servants, including agents of line ministries		• Under way, but at slow pace
Commencement of security sector reform	• Negotiations on reunification issues		• Partially in progress
	• Adoption of all relevant decrees governing the reunification of the two armies		• Pending
	• Full operational capacity of the Integrated Command Centre		• Partially under way, but at slow pace
	• Integration of Forces nouvelles elements recruited in 2001 in the new national army		• Partially in progress
	• Deployment of mixed police and gendarmerie units for securing the electoral process		• Under way, but at slow pace

Annex II

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: military and police strength as at 22 September 2009

	Military component				*Police components*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Argentina						3
Bangladesh	14	10	2 702	2 096	249	
Benin	8	8	420	436		57
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3			3		
Brazil	4	3		7		
Burundi						20
Cameroon						48
Canada						6
Central African Republic						9
Chad	2	1		3		26
China	7			7		
Djibouti						39
Democratic Republic of the Congo						20
Ecuador	2			2		
Egypt		1		1		
El Salvador	3			3		
Ethiopia	2			2		
Finland						1
France	2	8		10		12
Gambia	3			3		
Ghana	6	8	534	548		15
Guatemala	5			5		
Guinea	3			3		
Hungary						1
India	7			7		
Ireland	2			2		
Jordan	7	11	1 046	1 064	374	14
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya						2
Morocco		3	723	726		
Namibia	2			2		
Nepal	3	1		4		
Niger	6	4	382	392		60
Nigeria	8			8		
Pakistan	12	11	1 126	1 149	125	1

	Military component				*Police components*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Paraguay	7	2		9		
Peru	3			3		
Philippines	4	3		7		
Poland	4			4		
Republic of Korea	2			2		
Republic of Moldova	3			3		
Romania	7			7		
Russian Federation	7			7		
Rwanda						3
Senegal	9	6	321	336		51
Serbia	3			3		
Sweden						1
Switzerland						4
Togo	7	5	308	320		18
Tunisia	7	4		11		
Turkey						14
Uruguay	2			2		3
Uganda	3	2		5		
United Republic of Tanzania	1	2		3		
Yemen	9	1		10		4
Zambia	2			2		
Zimbabwe	1			1		
Total	**192**	**94**	**6 932**	**7 218 (Female-94)**	**748 (Female-2)**	**432 (Female-21)**



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